

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 6 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Also by this Amendment, the specification is amended. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example in the paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 19; page 11, line 13; page 14, line 17; page 22, line 4 and page 27, line 15.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action maintains its objection to the specification and asserts that the amendments to the specification filed on May 27, 2003, July 23, 2003, October 23, 2003 and February 25, 2004 are non-compliant and have not been entered.

In response, Applicants amend the specification as amended by the December 12, 2002 Amendment. In particular, the paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 19; page 11, line 13; page 14, line 17; page 22, line 4 and page 27, line 15 are amended merely correct the indication of trademarks. No new matter is introduced.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 6 and 13 have been canceled. Thus, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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